

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Members Present:** Councillor Armstrong-McGuire, Finola  
Councillor Bohan, Mary  
Councillor Barry, Brendan  
Councillor Dolan, Frank  
Councillor Dolan, Gerry  
Councillor Ellis, Caillian  
Councillor Fallon, Padraig  
Councillor Guckian, Des  
Councillor Guckian, Sinead  
Councillor Felim Gurn  
Councillor Logan, Seadhna  
Councillor Mulvey, Caroline  
Councillor McCartin, John  
Councillor McDermott, Sean  
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy  
Councillor Stenson, Enda  
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor McGowan, Sean  
Cathaoirleach presiding

**Officials Present:** Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive  
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic  
Development, Planning and Transportation  
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and  
Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency  
Services  
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water Services &  
Environment  
Mr Joe Lowe, Head of Enterprise  
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer  
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner  
Mr Francis Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer  
Mr Terry McGovern. A/Senior Engineer  
Mr Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms Samantha Healy, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Michael Hand, Financial Management Accountant  
Mr Gerry Doyle, Administrative Officer  
Mr. Kieran Brett, Meeting Administrator  
Ms Rebecca Farrell, Atlantic Economic Corridor Officer  
Ms Sinead Ni Thiarnain, A/Staff Officer  
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

19/28  
04/03/2019

**Votes of Sympathy**

**The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:**

- The Marist Sisters Community, Mount St Joseph's, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Sr Romana McDwyer R.I.P., Sr Maureen Layden R.I.P. and Sr Maria Gratia R.I.P.
- Mrs Maura Stenson & Family, Dublin Road, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Jimmy Stenson RIP.
- Eileen & Martin Doonan, Drumkeerin, Foxfield, Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Oliver Doonan RIP.
- O' Rourke Family, Drumany, Foxfield, Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Patricia O'Rourke RIP.
- Mary & Charlie McGourty & Family, Ballinaglera on the death of Mrs Josie McPartland RIP.
- Neil Faulkner & Seamus Devaney, Manorhamilton on the death of Fran Faulkner RIP.
- Gerard & Dympna Cull, Castlefore, Keshcarrigan, Co Leitrim on the death of Anthony Cull RIP.
- Andy & Kitty Dixon, Naomh Padraig, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Sean Dixon RIP.
- Joe McLoughlin, Drumbullog, Drumcong, Killtubrid, Co Leitrim on the death of Mark McLoughlin RIP.
- Robert Boyle, Tullybawn, Aghacashel, Co Leitrim on the death of Eileen Boyle RIP.

19/29  
04/03/2019

**Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

**Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and RESOLVED:**

"That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 be adopted".

Councillor Des Guckian outlined his dissatisfaction with the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and noted they lacked details of the discussions that took place.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services, stated that the minutes were a record of decisions taken and actions to be taken arising from decisions made at the meeting.

**19/30**

**04/03/2019**

**Annual Service Delivery Plan 2019**

The Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2019 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon raised the issue on non compliance with private rented inspection and sought an update in relation to unfinished housing developments/taking in charge and he noted that he believed that a workshop was due to be scheduled in 2019 in this regard.

Mr Gilhooly advised that final assessment works are being carried out and Leitrim County Council will be proceeding shortly with taking in charge of estates that don't require any further work.

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That Leitrim County Council’s Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2019 be adopted”.

**19/31**

**04/03/2019**

**‘Connecting Leitrim’s Global Community’ Leitrim Diaspora Strategy 2019-2023**

The Leitrim Diaspora Strategy 2019-2023 dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed Ms. Rebecca Farrell to the meeting.

Ms Rebecca Farrell presented a detailed presentation on ‘Connecting Leitrim’s Global Community’ Leitrim Diaspora Strategy 2019-2023

A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan and the Members thanked Ms Rebecca Farrell for her presentation and invited any questions/comments from the Members.

Ms Farrell responded to questions and comments from the Members in relation to the following:

- Irish Emigrants coming back to live in Ireland from USA have to undertake their driving tests again in order to obtain an Irish Driving Licence in Ireland. Members agreed that more should be done by the Government to help Irish Emigrants in this regard.
- Members welcomed the Web Based presence in the strategy.
- Development of a “Leitrim Pin”.
- Continuation of the Diaspora outreach element of the “Leitrim Equation” initiative.
- Brexit will have an impact on the Strategy and it may be necessary to revise the strategy as a result of the outcome of Brexit
- The number of undocumented Irish people who live in America and cannot return home. This issue needs to be followed up with An Taoiseach.
- Local Authorities who are stakeholders in Knock Ireland West Airport must ensure that Transatlantic Flights come into this airport.
- Development of Guided Tours throughout Leitrim to inform visitors of the History of Leitrim
- Importance of Job creation in the county is essential and every effort must be made to ensure that people who want to return to Leitrim are facilitated.
- Promotion of Leitrim based artists and musicians to Diaspora and links to tours outside Leitrim.

Ms Rebecca Farrell thanked the Members for their observations/comments.

**Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That “Connecting Leitrim’s Global Community’ Leitrim Diaspora Strategy 2019-2023 be approved”.

**19/32**  
**04/03/2019**

**Audit Committee Annual Report 2018**

The Annual Report, 2018 from the Audit Committee to Leitrim County Council, dated 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 and submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 122 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 5 of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services advised that the Audit Committee's report on its consideration of the audited Financial Statement 2017 and Auditor's report was noted at the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Council Meeting.

The report was noted by the Members.

**19/33**  
**04/03/2019**

**Annual Report 2018 from Leitrim Joint Policing Committee**

Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 from Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture & Emergency Services as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services advised that a Public meeting of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon

The report was noted by the Members.

**19/34**  
**04/03/2019**

**Report on the operation of Litter Pollution Act 1997 in regard to measures taken during 2018 in relation to the prevention and control of litter**

Report from Sinead Ni Thiarnain, A/Staff Officer, Environment dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in relation to the measures taken during 2018 in regard to the prevention and control of litter as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The report was noted by the Members.

**19/35**  
**04/03/2019**      **Tourism Grant Scheme 2019**

Report from Sinead McDermott, Tourism Officer dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in relation to the Tourism Grant Scheme 2019 as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the Tourism Grant Scheme 2019 be approved”.

**19/36**  
**04/03/2019**      **Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive**

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 by Lar Power, Chief Executive, dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 respectively, prepared in accordance with Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 8** and **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The reports were noted by Members.

**19/37**  
**04/03/2019**      **Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001**

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services outlined that there were no commitments to note under this item.

**19/38**  
**04/03/2019**      **Corporate Policy Group Report**

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held prior to the Council meeting:

- To consider celebration of 120th anniversary of the first Local Elections.
- Update from Strategic Policy Committee's
- Update from LCDC

### **Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee**

Councillor Gerry Dolan, Chairperson, outlined that a meeting of the Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee was held on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and the following items were considered:-

- Update on Sports Strategy
- Update on the preparation of the Arts Strategy 2019 -2022
- Update on Housing

### **Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee**

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined that an Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee meeting took place on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and considered the following items:

- Work Programme 2019
- Tourism Supports Grant Scheme
- Presentation on the Draft Renewable Energy Strategy Review
- PPN Public Consultation on Forestry Activities in County Leitrim
- Leitrim County Council Diaspora Strategy

### **Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Strategic Policy Committee**

Councillor Sinead Guckian outlined that an Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee meeting took place on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and considered the following items:

- Draft Work Programme 2019 and Schedule of Meetings for 2019
- Update on Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Litter Management Update

Ms. Quinn also outlined that an over-view of items listed on the agenda for the Council meeting was provided and that the attendance of Members at forthcoming Conferences/Seminars was also agreed by the Corporate Policy Group.

**19/39**  
**04/03/2019**

**Conferences/Training**

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, Councillor Padraig Fallon, Councillor Sinead Guckian, Cllr Sean McDermott and Councillor Gerry Dolan at the LAMA 2019 Spring Seminar “Councillors Promotions Through Media” held in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the 7<sup>th</sup> March to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Sligo be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire and Councillor Caillian Ellis at the AILG training on “Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies” in the Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Caillian Ellis at the AILG Annual Conference in the Longford Arms Hotel & Spa, Longford on the 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

Councillor Sinead Guckian paid tribute to Local Authority Members Association on hosting their Spring Annual Conference in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. She noted this is huge benefit from a social and economic point of view. Councillor Sinead Guckian acknowledged the great work of Councillor Sean McGowan and the Executive of Leitrim County Council in this regard and invited all members to support this conference.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan invited all Members to attend Leitrim’s Health is Wealth Seminar in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**19/40**  
**04/03/2019**

**Meeting Correspondence**

1. Resolution dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 from Laois County Council requesting funding from the Department of Justice & Equality to facilitate the operational expenses of the County Morgue and Coroner.



2. Letter received 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the HSE Office of the General Manager Services for Older Persons in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding Home Care Support in County Leitrim.
3. Letter received 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Rural and Community Development in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council requesting a meeting in regard to Local Improvement Scheme funding.
- 3(a) Letter received 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Rural and Community Development in relation to the Local Improvement Scheme in County Leitrim.
4. Letter received 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Bill 2018.
5. Letter received 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding Cervical Check.

Councillor Des Guckian noted the reply received and said that this should always have been policy.

6. Acknowledgement received 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council concerning the Long Term Illness Scheme.
- 6(a) Letter received 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to Long Term Illness Scheme.
7. Letter of acknowledgement received 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in response to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council concerning Criminal Repeat Offenders.
8. Letter received 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment regarding the National Broadband Plan.
- 8(a) Letter received 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment, regarding the provision of high speed broadband to the Drumkeeran area.
9. Letter received 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to the Register of Electors.

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that a submission be made on behalf of the Elected Members of Leitrim County Council in regard to the proposed

modernisation of the electoral register. Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Enda Stenson supported this.

10. Letter of acknowledgement received 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in response to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Genomics Scheme.
11. Letter received 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on making roads safer for all road users.
12. Letter received from National HSE Office for Suicide Prevention in response to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council requesting information on current practices and policies with regard to regional Suicide Prevention Groups as opposed to National Groups.

Councillor Padraig Fallon expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard and proposed that a further letter issue to the HSE requesting information on Regional Groups.

### **Other Items discussed under Meeting Correspondence**

#### **St Patrick's Hospital**

Councillor Enda Stenson noted that no reply has been received to date from the HSE in regard to St Patrick's Hospital.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that at the HSE Regional Forum Meeting Members were advised that the HSE was proceeding to purchase a site in Carrick-on-Shannon for a new Hospital.

Councillor Stenson expressed his disappointment that the HSE did not reply to Leitrim County Council in this regard.

#### **Community Funding Workshops**

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation advised that Information event on funding for community groups will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00 p.m in the Bee Park Community Centre, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at 7.00 p.m in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim. Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Development Company will present information on grants available from the Department of Rural and Community Development (Community Enhancement Programme, CLAR, Town & Village, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, Rural Regeneration Development Scheme) and LEADER.

**19/41**  
**04/03/2019**

**Vote of Congratulations**

The Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to the following:-

- Leitrim County Football Team on being promoted to Division 3.

**19/42**  
**04/03/2019**

**Presentation by North West STOP**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed Mr Tom Reilly, North West STOP to the meeting.

Mr Tom Reilly gave a presentation to the members which addressed the following:

- A brief history of North West STOP
- Details of their location, the facilities available to their counsellors and the geographical area in which they provide support.
- The aim and purpose of North West STOP
- Their experience and compassion in providing support to individuals that need their services
- The need for adequate funding to enable North West STOP to provide their clients with appropriate support, commitment and compassion
- Acknowledgment of the voluntary fund raising carried out by groups, individuals, clubs, organisations and agencies on behalf of North West STOP
- Sought the support of the Elected Members of Leitrim County Council to ask their TD's and Senators to source appropriate funding for North West STOP at National level.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan thanked Mr Tom Reilly for his presentation and invited any questions/comments from the Members.

The following items were raised:-

- Members noted there is no follow-up for patients after receiving treatment from HSE
- Members paid tribute to the North West STOP and all the Volunteers for the excellent service they provide 24/7
- Alcohol abuse and associated mental health problems are serious issues in this county and it needs to be addressed.
- Members agreed that funding should be secured nationally for this service.

All members supported the call for national funding to be secured for North West STOP.

**19/43**

**04/03/2019**

**Presentation by Comhairle na nOg**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed Scott Ferns, Katie O'Rourke, Kamsi Adiqwe, Deimante Krasauskaite, Grainne Reynolds, Ava Murray, Aimee Burns, Shannon Owen, Roisin McManus, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Jason Duncan on behalf of the Comhairle na nOg to the meeting. The Cathaoirleach also welcomed Fiona Taylor, Co-Ordinator of Comhairle na nOg, Pat Forde, Director of North Connaught Youth Services and Donal Scully, Chairperson of the North Connacht Youth Services to the meeting.

A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 10** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan and the Members unanimously paid tribute to the students and their mentors. Cllr Sean McGowan said it is a testament to these young people that they will continue to work on this project in 2019 ensuring that this issue will be highlighted in schools and sports clubs all over Ireland. Colin Regan, the GAA Community & Health Manager, has agreed to discuss how this video could be shown to GAA clubs throughout Ireland. Minister for Education, Joe McHugh met with a delegation last week and committed to looking at how this video could be put on the school curriculum.

Apologies were received from Rosie and Joe Dolan who were unavailable to attend the event and they expressed their deep gratitude to the Comhairle na nOg for listening to their story.

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that the Corporate Policy Group put in place a frequent reporting mechanism between Comhairle na nOg, and Leitrim County Council, which would both strengthen and support Comhairle na nOg.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported this.

**Notices of Motions**

**19/44**

**04/03/2019**

**Waste Water Treatment Plants**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;***

"That we, the elected representatives, challenge the Executive Officials and the Water Department of Leitrim County Council to give us an undertaking, and proof, that they are applying the same zero emissions standards to all wastewater sewage

plants under their control as are being put forward, by them, for inclusion in the Pilot Scheme for septic tanks in our rural areas. A list of all plants in Co Leitrim and how they are performing should be made available to all Cllrs."

***Report by Head of Finance & Water Services***

"For all the larger plants the licenses have transferred to Irish Water under the Water Services Act 2013. The discharge limits are set by the EPA in the licence and are based on the assimilative capacity of the receiving waters in compliance with the Surface Water Regulations and the Water Framework Directive.

The EPA monitor compliance of all licences and information on performance of all Licensed Waste Water Treatment Plants is available on the EPA website.

In relation to waste water stand alone infrastructure under the control of Leitrim County Council the same standards in regard to the implementation of surface water regulations and environmental protection are applicable. In regard to the performance of these systems due to the demand and the passage of time, the council are currently in the process of determining requirements and an upgrade programme. The design of any remedial works required will be in accordance with the same surface water regulations and environmental protection requirements applicable to any other large stand alone treatment systems."

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment with the reply received, and proposed that all waste water infrastructure be put into good working order.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance advised Cllr Des Guckian that waste water infrastructure plants and licenses were transferred to the Irish Water in early 2014. The discharge limits are set out by the EPA in the licence.

**19/45**

**04/03/2019**

**Local Improvement Scheme**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 16 in the name of Councillor Pdraig Fallon and Motion No 17 in the name of Councillor Paddy O'Rourke would be taken concurrently as they all relate to the Local Improvement Scheme. This was agreed by the Members.

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fallon;***

"I propose the immediate re-opening of the Local Improvement Scheme by Leitrim County Council and that the existing 37 applications retained, held by this Local Authority are added."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"Taking into account the progress being made through allocations of funding by the

Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in regard to the current Local Improvement Scheme waiting list the reopening of the scheme to new applicants could be considered. However, the DRCD circulars in regard to the scheme are clear on the need for the operation of the scheme to be in accordance with the existing memorandum for the payment of these grants to the Council. In this regard, the Council is required to ensure as far as practicable that priority is given to projects most requiring attention in the county as a whole taking into account a number of determining factors and not discriminating unduly in favour of the date of the application. Therefore, it is proposed that the matter of preparation of a prioritisation criteria and scoring scheme for new applications will be referred to the SPC for consideration and recommendation along with the matter of applications received subsequent to the ceasing of funding to the LIS from the Department of Transport."

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;***

"I propose that this council reopen the Local Improvement Scheme and deal appropriately with the number of applications already submitted whilst the scheme was supposedly closed, given the money provided this year and an indication that more may be forthcoming provided we move to spend the first allocation early in the year."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"Taking into account the progress being made through allocations of funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in regard to the current Local Improvement Scheme waiting list the reopening of the scheme to new applicants could be considered. However, the DRCD circulars in regard to the scheme are clear on the need for the operation of the scheme to be in accordance with the existing memorandum for the payment of these grants to the Council. In this regard, the Council is required to ensure as far as practicable that priority is given to projects most requiring attention in the county as a whole taking into account a number of determining factors and not discriminating unduly in favour of the date of the application. Therefore, it is proposed that the matter of preparation of a prioritisation criteria and scoring scheme for new applications will be referred to the SPC for consideration and recommendation along with the matter of applications received subsequent to the ceasing of funding to the LIS from the Department of Transport."

Councillor Padraig Fallon noted that he put a motion down previously in this regard and he proposed that the Local Improvement Scheme be opened immediately as he believes applicants do not have any false expectations of when the work will start, and are aware that when funding becomes available their applications will be looked at.

Councillor Padraig Fallon outlined the reply received and proposed that a prioritisation criteria and scoring scheme for new applications be brought back before

the full Council for consideration and adoption.

Councillor Mary Bohan moved Councillor Paddy O'Rourke's motion as he had to leave the meeting.

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that the Scheme was closed in 2010 and this decision was not taken lightly. Councillor Bohan acknowledged that some funding has been forthcoming but she is very disappointed that no funding in this regard has come from Minister Ross's Department.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that Local Government funding should be sought in this regard.

Councillor Seadhna Logan supported the motions and said that this vindicates Sinn Fein's position on this issue from the January meeting and proposed that all applicants should be included on the list.

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the funding received from Minister Ring's Department and he hoped funding would be matched from Minister Ross's Department and he proposed that extra outdoor staff should be recruited to complete the work.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan also welcomed the funding received in this regard.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation advised that further funding has been notified to the Local Authority in regard to the Local Improvement scheme.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a copy of the criteria for assessment of Local Improvement Scheme applications be forwarded to each Member.

It was agreed by all members, that the LIS scheme would be presented to the SPC for consideration and it would subsequently be brought to a plenary meeting of the Council for approval.

**19/46**  
**04/03/2019**

**Public Nursing Service**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;***

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the HSE to act immediately on the following issues:

1. To provide full time public nursing hours in the Drumkeerin area as this service has been reduced in the past year.
2. That the HSE and the Department of Health as a matter of urgency increase the provision of home help hours."

Councillor Mary Bohan gave the background to her motion and paid tribute to the Public Health Nurse in the Drumkeerin area. Councillor Mary Bohan pointed out that urgent legislation should be introduced that will allow Home Care Support as a statutory right.

All Members supported this motion.

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the HSE to act immediately on the following issues:

1. To provide full time public nursing hours in the Drumkeerin area as this service has been reduced in the past year.
2. That the HSE and the Department of Health as a matter of urgency increase the provision of home help hours."

**19/47**

**04/03/2019**

**VRT Exemption**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 19 in his name and Motion No 26 in the name of Councillor Caroline Mulvey would be taken concurrently as they all relate to the economic pressures facing rural publicans. This was agreed by the Members.

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;***

"I seek the support of Members in calling on the relevant Ministers in Government to address the unique economic pressures facing rural publicans.

I am proposing changes such as a VAT rebate or VRT exemption on a Publicans Vehicle where it is been used or part used in connection with their business. I am also concerned that appropriate motor insurance be available, as most policies are for Social & Domestic use & Publicans could find themselves without valid insurance if that vehicle is used in connection with their business. These measures would provide some support to rural publicans in areas where there is an absence of public transport and taxi providers and recognise the unique socially inclusive role played by pubs in rural communities."

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Caroline Mulvey;***



"As recent legislation regarding drink driving laws is having a profound affect on rural areas, I propose we as a Council ask that the rural link expand their services to night time services for the local rural pubs and restaurants."

Councillor Sean McGowan gave the background to this motion and said that no member is supporting "Drink Driving".

Councillor Caroline Mulvey proposed that rural link services be expanded to service local rural pubs and restaurants.

Councillor Des Guckian outlined that he had contacted the Rural Link in this regard and had been advised that the Rural Link Services are currently being reviewed.

**Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan seconded by Councillor Caroline Mulvey AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the relevant Ministers in Government to address the unique economic pressures facing rural publicans.

Proposing changes such as a VAT rebate or VRT exemption on a Publicans Vehicle where it is been used or part used in connection with their business. I am also concerned that appropriate motor insurance be available, as most policies are for Social & Domestic use & Publicans could find themselves without valid insurance if that vehicle is used in connection with their business. These measures would provide some support to rural publicans in areas where there is an absence of public transport and taxi providers and recognise the unique socially inclusive role played by pubs in rural communities."

"As recent legislation regarding drink driving laws is having a profound affect on rural areas, that Leitrim County Council ask that the rural link expand their services to night time services for the local rural pubs and restaurants."

**19/48**

**04/03/2019**

**Geo Park**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;***

"I will ask if Leitrim County Council will investigate the possibility of our county been part of The Geo Park which covers counties Cavan and Fermanagh."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"The Geo Park referred to is an UNESCO accredited Global GeoPark. What is therefore being suggested is the extension of this Global GeoPark, which is a significant project in its own right and had been previously considered when the Border Uplands Project was being developed.

In the first instance the concept would have to be done in collaboration and with the co-operation and support of the partner councils mentioned. Secondly a detailed scoping, research and justification process would have to be undertaken in order to determine the identification and likely potential success of any proposed extension and thirdly the resources and costs associated with this stage and the subsequent application, which would be extensive, would have to be put in place.

The operation and management of this additional element of the Global GeoPark is also resource intensive and subject to periodic renewal processes. The GeoPark referred to consists of significant sights of geological interest such as the Cavan Burren and the Marble Arch Caves and it is in the context of such sites that the return on investment associated with the extension of the GeoPark and the subsequent management and operation costs would have to be judged.

While the initial reaction would be that the feasibility of such an initiative would be questionable, and in all likelihood will not be secured."

Councillor Sean McDermott gave the background to his motion and noted Cllr Justin Warrnck had raised a similar motion previously.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised Members that the costs associated with such an application would be extensive and the return on investment associated with the extension of the Geo Park, management and operation costs would have to be considered in detail.

Councillor Des Guckian queried if there has been a geological survey carried out on this area recently.

Mr Gilhooly advised that he is not aware of such a survey being undertaken recently.

**19/49**

**04/03/2019**

**WRAP Fund**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;***

"The WRAP fund was established to promote the film industry to the North west region for film production. The counties of Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Donegal are part of this fund. This enables film production to create viable jobs in the making of films and TV shows like the Game of Thrones. It has worked for Northern Ireland and would promote Leitrim to a worldwide audience of the fantastic rural landscape that we have. Has Leitrim County Council recently joined this fund or do they intend to contribute to it?"

***Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services***

"Leitrim County Council was approached in 2017 to be part of the WRAP project and

a funding commitment of €60,000 over 3 years was required. It was not obvious to Leitrim County Council what benefit would accrue to the county given the significant portion of the Arts budget that would be required to fund this commitment, and we did not engage in the process.

Given the limitations on resources and the scale of costs involved in filming, we have in recent years focused what financial investment we have into filmmakers that live here and with regard to inward investment we have worked to develop a reputation in the film industry as a local authority that is open, helpful and easy to work with. Examples of this include testing of water for the Winterlake project, which is currently being filmed in Leitrim and Sligo, and the provision of fire and environmental services for the filming of Jimmy's Hall.

Efforts to support the film making industry in the county will continue within the available resources in the Arts budget."

Councillor Felim Gurn proposed that Leitrim County Council participate in the WRAP Fund.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion and said it is an industry that Leitrim County Council need to tap into.

Councillor Des Guckian and Councillor Justin Warnock supported the motion.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services advised Members that Leitrim County Council was approached in 2017 to join the WRAP Programme at which time a decision was taken not to participate in the context of financial constraints at the time and other priorities in the arts budget were focused on.

Ms Quinn advised that the matter can be reviewed post the current 3 year project.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon stated that this programme should be viewed as an investment.

**19/50**

**04/03/2019**

**Agriculture and Rural Development**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;***

"I will ask the Elected Members to call on the Executive of Leitrim County to create a Director and an SPC with the specific responsibility for Agriculture and Rural Development."

***Report by Chief Executive***

"The Senior Management Team in Leitrim County Council consists of a Chief Executive and 3 Officers at Director of Service Level. At this time this is considered

appropriate for this County. It is considered that this represents an effective and cost efficient structure to serve the needs of this Council and this County. Rural Development is of paramount importance to Leitrim County Council and currently we are very heavily focussed in this regard. Similarly, Agriculture is very important to this County. Both Agriculture and Rural Development constitute economic development activity, which is one of our primary focuses as a Council, so in essence we are satisfied that we are adequately resourced and focussed to delivery the necessary outcomes in both areas."

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment with the reply received. He noted that Agriculture is worth over €60.6 million to the economy and he paid tribute to the great young people of County Leitrim and he insisted that approaches need to change in order to keep young people on the farm.

Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive outlined that he supports agriculture and advised Members that they have to be practicable in this regard.

Councillor Sinead Guckian queried if an SPC could be tasked with looking after agriculture.

Mr Lar Power advised that he will look at the terms of reference of the new SPC's when the new Council is formed.

**19/51**

**04/03/2019**

**Rates Rebate Scheme for 2018**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire;***

"I ask how many enquiries have been followed through with rentals under the Rates Rebate Scheme for 2018 in County Leitrim."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"2 enquiries were received in second half of 2018 despite promotion of the scheme. A further round of promotion will be initiated."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire expressed her disappointment in relation to the uptake of the scheme. Cllr Armstrong McGuire appealed to have Summer time schemes in all towns and Villages, Tourism Offices in all towns and villages, Craft Exhibitions in all towns and villages, working studios in all towns and villages. Councillor Armstrong McGuire proposed that a meeting be held in this regard.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that his department is working closely with the town teams in Mohill, Manorhamilton, Carrick-on-Shannon and Ballinamore.

19/52  
04/03/2019

**Forestry Policy**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;***

"I ask that Leitrim County Council recognise the campaign to change Forestry Policy which is to protect the communities of County Leitrim and to call on Minister Andrew Doyle TD to impose a moratorium on Afforestation."

Councillor Gerry Dolan noted that an assessment was being carried out with regard to Forestry Policy. He proposed that a moratorium on all plantations in Leitrim be put in place in order to try and protect the people.

Councillor Justin Warnock supported the motion and expressed his disappointment with the continuation of planting while a study is being carried out.

All Members supported the motion.

**Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council recognise the campaign to change Forestry Policy which is to protect the communities of County Leitrim and to call on Minister Andrew Doyle TD to impose a moratorium on Afforestation."

19/53  
04/03/2019

**Healthcare and Reform of the HSE**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Brendan Barry;***

"I call on Leitrim County council to support a motion of no confidence in Minister for Health Simon Harris to manage or reform healthcare in Ireland. We demand accountability, respect and proper pay and conditions for frontline staff, value for money spent on Healthcare and reform of the HSE. Your health is your wealth. Enough is enough."

Councillor Brendan Barry gave the background to his motion and said that there is a need to get better value for money and people need to stand up for frontline staff and get better value for money spent on Healthcare and have HSE reformed.

All Members supported the Motion.

**Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry seconded by Councillor Des Guckian  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council to support a motion of no confidence in Minister for Health Simon Harris to manage or reform healthcare in Ireland. We demand accountability, respect and proper pay and conditions for frontline staff, value for money spent on Healthcare and reform of the HSE. Your health is your wealth. Enough is enough."

**19/54**

**04/03/2019**

**High vis Clothing**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;***

"I propose that we call on the RSA and the Dept of TII to make the wearing of high-visibility clothing for both pedestrians and cyclists compulsory, and also that single file should be obligatory especially on local roads."

**Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the RSA and the Dept of TII to make the wearing of high visibility clothing for both pedestrians and cyclists compulsory, and also that single file should be obligatory especially on local roads."

**19/55**

**04/03/2019**

**Land Reclamation Scheme**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;***

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Michael Creed to put in place a land reclamation scheme for County Leitrim that would help farmers to increase production."

Councillor Caillian Ellis said that such a scheme would encourage people to buy land and encourage the financial institutions to release money for land reclamation.

Councillor Brendan Barry asked if the following amendment could be made to the motion to "increase grass production".

Councillor Caillian Ellis agreed to this.

**Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Michael Creed to put in place a land reclamation scheme for County Leitrim that would help farmers

to increase grass production”.

**19/56**

**04/03/2019**

**Employment in County Leitrim**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;**

"I ask has any progress been made in attracting any major business to the former Bank of America building, all the good work that is being done, will amount for nothing if we are not able to attract further employment into the County, that would keep our young or at least some of our young people here in Leitrim."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"To date no additional investment has been identified for the former Bank of America building in Carrick-on-Shannon despite the IDA securing at least 5 visits to examine the campus in 2018. However, as has been proven the most successful provision of foreign direct employment at regional level is the expansion of current businesses. In this regard the Council welcomes the announcement on Monday last by Avancard of the creation of additional 40 jobs on top of 58 positions that they have added over the last eighteen months.

The view articulated by Avancard at the jobs announcement 'with more people seeking a better work/life balance and with many finding themselves priced out of the housing market in Dublin and the East coast, the benefits of working, living and learning in the North West is becoming ever more prevalent. The region has enjoyed a string of new high-end jobs announcements and investment over recent months and with businesses such as Avantcard prioritising the work/life balance of employees, the region offers a quality of living that our major cities are struggling to match provides a strong basis of optimism as the work of the IDA continues to secure further job announcements for the county."

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the announcement of jobs in AvantCard stating there is a need for further jobs in the county.

Councillor Seadhna Logan, Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire supported the motion.

**19/57**

**04/03/2019**

**Childcare Facilities**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Seadhna Logan;**

"I calling on Minister Katherine Zappone and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to expand on the limiting terms of her capital grants scheme for child care facilities, as it is very off putting to new entrants. The upper grant limit is too low to be of much benefit to projects seeking to seriously develop or grow their existing

facilities in any meaningful way. As currently designed, this grant is a token gesture and does not go far enough to help alleviate the urgent need for additional childcare placements and resources."

Councillor Seadhna Logan gave the background to his motion and said that the grants available in this regard are totally insufficient and inadequate.

All Members supported the motion.

**Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on Minister Katherine Zappone and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to expand on the limiting terms of her capital grants scheme for child care facilities, as it is very off putting to new entrants. The upper grant limit is too low to be of much benefit to projects seeking to seriously develop or grow their existing facilities in any meaningful way. As currently designed, this grant is a token gesture and does not go far enough to help alleviate the urgent need for additional childcare placements and resources".

The business of the meeting concluded at 3.15 pm

**Signed:**

**Councillor Sean McGowan  
Cathaoirleach**

**Kieran Brett  
Meetings Administrator**

**Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019**